

of  
Montauk Illinoian  
Jan'y 3<sup>rd</sup> 1873

Prof A. Gray

Dear Sir

Your favor  
of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult is just at hand -  
I thank you most heartily for  
remembering my wish to exchange  
with some one for the plants of  
Northern Europe - But now I  
want to make the most I  
can of the opportunity presented  
through your kindness and would  
therefore prefer to collect next  
season especially for this exchange,  
sending only good fresh specimens  
of all the western plants I could  
collect myself or get from Mr.  
Babcock or Mr Patterson of species  
which do not grow near me -  
I'd rather not spoil my credit  
by a meagre sending at first